

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9974
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
USEC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: POLITICAL POTPOURRI

1. ARIAS TOSSES HAT IN THE RING. CARLOS ARIAS NAVARRO, FRANCO'S LAST PRIME MINISTER AND JUAN CARLOS' FIRST, ANNOUNCED LATE LAST WEEK THAT, AT FRAGA'S REQUEST, HE WOULD RUN AS AN ALIANZA POPULAR CANDIDATE FOR THE SENATE FROM MADRID. HIS ANNOUNCEMENT WAS RECEIVED PREDICTABLY BY THE PRESS, WITH "DIARIO 16" AND "EL PAIS" LABELING HIM A THROWBACK TO THE FRANCO REGIME AND "ABC" PRAISING HIM AS A MAN OF CONVICTION WHO HAD SERVED FRANCO AND SPAIN WITH HONOR.

2. RALLIES FOR ALL TASTES. THE LAST FEW DAYS HAVE BROUGHT
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A MUSHROOMING OF POLITICAL RALLIES IN ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. NOTABLE AMONG THEM WERE:
--THE PARTICIPATION BY AS MANY AS 200,000 PEOPLE IN THE APR 23 BARCELONA CELEBRATION OF ST. GEORGE'S DAY (THE PARTRON SAINT OF CATALONIA), WHICH WAS ALSO USED AS A PLATFORM BY GROUPS RANGING FROM MODERATE RIGHT TO EXTREME LEFT TO CALL FOR THE REINSTATEMENT OF THE CATALAN AUTONOMY STATUTE OF 1932. LEADERS OF THE

SPONSORING GROUPS MET WITH BARCELONA MAYOR SOCIAS HUMBERT.

--THE APR 24 GATHERING OF A REPORTED 10,000 AT THE TOWN OF VILLALAR (VALLADOLID) FOR A PICNIC/FESTIVAL TO COMMEMORATE THE RISING OF THE CASTILIAN "COMUNEROS" AGAINST EMPEROR CHARLES V IN 1521 AND TO CALL (YOU GUESSED IT) FOR AN AUTONOMY STATUTE FOR CASTILLE AND LEON.

--13 SEPARATE RALLIES BY VARIOUS POLITICAL GROUPS IN THE BASQUE PROVINCES, INCLUDING AN APR 24 MEETING OF THE ULTRA-RIGHT FUERZA NUEVA (FN) IN A BILBAO THEATER. DURING HIS ADDRESS TO THE SOME 2,000 IN ATTENDANCE, PARTY LEADER BLAS PINAR AFFIRMED THAT FN WAS "PREPARED TO KILL AND DIE FOR SPAIN," AND 100 OR SO TOUGHS LATER LEFT THE RALLY TO BREAK STORE WINDOWS AND ROUGH UP PASSERS-BY IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA (THESE WERE THE ONLY SERIOUS DISTURBANCES OF PUBLIC ORDER REPORTED IN CONNECTION WITH ANY OF THE RALLIES NATIONWIDE).

--AN ALIANZA POPULAR RALLY APR 25 IN BARCELONA, WHERE FRAGA, LOPEZ RODO, MARTINEZ ESTERUELAS, DE LA FUENTE AND FERNANDEZ DE LA MORA ADDRESSED SOME 13,000 SUPPORTERS IN THE CITY'S PORTS PALACE. THEIR SPEECHES INCLUDED THE CALL FOR A STATUTE OF AUTONOMY FOR CATALONIA WITHIN A UNITARY SPANISH STATE, A DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENTAL NEUTRALITY IN THE ELECTIONS, AND ATTACKS ON THE PCE.

--VARIOUS SMALL PSOE GET-TOGETHERS AROUND THE COUNTRY AND A RALLY IN ELCHE (ALICANTE) SPONSORED BY TIerno GALVAN'S SMALL PSP WHICH DREW A REPORTED 1,000.

--AN APR 24 PCE RALLY IN VALLADOLID, WHERE SECGEN CARRILLO ADRESSED A CROWD OF SOME 10,000 IN THE CITY'S SPORTS PAVILION. SOME DISCONTENT WAS REGISTERED WHEN HE REITERATED THE PARTY'S SUPPORT FOR THE FLAG AND THE MONARCHY. THE PCE'S OWN SECURITY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FORCE REPORTEDLY ACTED SWIFTLY AGAINST ANYONE DISPLAYING A REPUBLICAN FLAG. IN A POST-RALLY PRESS CONFERENCE, CARRILLO REPORTEDLY EULOGIZED SUAREZ, WHILE LABELING FRAGA "DEMENTED."

3. GUERNICA REMEMBERED. IN PREPARATION FOR THE COMMEMORATION TODAY OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HISTORIC BASQUE TOWN'S NEAR DESTRUCTION BY THE GERMAN CONDOR LEGION DURING THE CIVIL WAR, GUERNICA HAS BEEN THE SCENE OF A SERIES OF ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS ON THE CIVIL WAR AND BASQUE HISTORY. PARTICIPANTS REPORTEDLY HAVE SENT A PETITION TO THE GOVT FOR THE CORRECTION OF THE "OFFICIAL" ACCOUNTS OF THE DESTRUCTION OF GUERNICA, WHICH PORTRAY IT AS THE RESULT OF THE RETREATING BASQUES PUTTING THE TORCH TO THEIR OWN TOWN.

4. PSP-FPS ALLIANCE. TIerno GALVAN'S PSP REPORTEDLY IS CLOSE TO FINAL AGREEMENT WITH THE REMNANTS OF THE FEDERATION OF SOCIALIST PARTIES (FPS) ON AN ELECTORAL COALITION. SINCE THE RIVAL PSOE ALREADY HAS PACTED WITH THE CATALAN (PSC-C) AND MADRID (CSM) CONSTITUENTS OF THE FPS, THIS AGREEMENT WOULD

LINK THE PSP TO ROJAS MARCOS'S ANDALUSIAN SOCIALISTS (PSA)
AND SMALL SOCIALIST GROUPINGS IN VALENCIA, ARAGON, MURCIA,
THE BALERICS AND THE CANARIES.

5. PSOE HOSTS EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS. AT AN APR 23 OPEN MEETING
WITH MEMBERS OF THE SOCIALIST GROUP OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
AND THE UNION OF SOCIALIST PARTIES OF THE EC, PSOE SEC GEN
FELIPE GONZALEZ INSISTED ON THE "CONSTITUENT" NATURE OF THE
NEW PARLIAMENT, EMPHASIZED SPAIN'S TIES WITH EUROPE, STRONGLY
CRITICIZED THE GOS FOR ITS FAILURE TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH
ISRAEL, TWEAKED THE COMMUNISTS FOR THEIR TOTALITARIAN HISTORY
AND REPUTATION, AND MADE THE PREDICTABLE GRATUITOUS SWIPE AT
THE U.S. FOR ITS "LINKS" TO THE MILITARY REGIMES IN CHILE
AND ARGENTINA.

6. MEANWHILE, 7 ALLEGED MEMBERS OF THE EXTREME-LEFT FRAP WERE
ARRESTED IN MADRID OVER THE WEEKEND IN CONNECTION WITH THE
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APR 14 MOLOTOV COCKTAIL ATTACK ON A POLICE JEEP WHICH LEFT
ITS 5 OCCUPANTS INJURED, 2 OF THEM SEVERLY BURNED (MADRID
2896). EATON

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